

KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES: of the Meeting of Council held on 16 July, 2026 commencing at 8.21pm in Our Lady Star of the Sea Hall, Vermont Drive, East Preston.

PRESENT: Cllrs Wetherell (Chairman), Buckenham, Masson and Randall

Val Knight (Clerk).

- 73/26 **Welcome and Safety Procedures** – The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained safety procedures.
- 74/26 **Apologies for Absence** - Cllrs Andrew and Marr.
- 75/26 **Urgent Matters Arising** since the preparation of this Agenda - none.
- 76/26 **Declarations and Dispensations of Interests** – Further to declarations held in the Register of Members Interests, in the interest of openness, Cllr Masson declared membership of Kingston Gorse Estate and Cllr Randall declared membership of West Kingston Residents Association and that he is on the Board of the Association.
- 77/26 **Public Opportunity** – No members of the public were present.
- 78/26 **Minutes** - Council approved Minutes of the Meetings held on 21 May, 2026 and 22 June, 2026 (circulated). The minutes were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- 79/26 **Matters Arising from the Minutes** – None
- 80/26 **Planning Committee** – Council noted the minutes of the meeting held on 21 May, 2026. A committee meeting had been held earlier in the evening, and the proceedings were noted and recommendations agreed.
- 81/26 **Finance and General Purposes Committee** – Council noted the minutes of the meeting held on 21 May, 2026. A committee meeting had been held earlier in the evening, and the proceedings were noted and recommendations agreed, including appointing 4 new signatories for the new banking account to be opened with Unity Trust.
- 82/26 **Policing** – It was noted that PCSO Raju had provided a report during the Planning Committee meeting earlier in the evening.
- 83/26 **West Sussex County Council:**
- a. **Report of County Councillor** – Not available
 - b. **Highways and Footpaths:**
 - i. Kingston Lane repair requests: the Clerk advised that County been approached again about its refusal to replace the damaged bollards but received the same answer. County Cllr Elkins had been copied into the correspondence and asked by the Clerk if he could pursue this further.
 - ii. Council noted that quotes had been requested from different contractors to clean and tidy around the Village Gateway sign. It had been delegated to the Clerk and Cllr Andrew to appoint a new contractor within the amount allocated of £200. It was agreed that up £200 could be spent on the initial clean and cut and the total amount for the year reviewed once this had been carried out.
 - iii. The Clerk would report to County that the bend sign north of the junction with Peak Lane is obscured by foliage.
 - iv. **Request for 30 mph speed limit change in Kingston Lane** – It was noted that quotes for ‘rumble’ strip surveys to measure speeds at specific points along Kingston Lane are awaited.

- 84/26 **Arun District Council Report of District Councillors:** No District Cllrs in attendance.
- 85/26 **Sussex Devolution** – Council noted the Government had delayed a decision on the make-up of unitary authorities.
- 86/26 **Dr Beccy Cooper MP:** Following on from the meeting held on 27 March, 2026, a meeting with Network Rail was arranged by Beccy’s team to discuss the Roundstone crossing on 10 July, 2026. The report by Cllr Randall on the meeting (circulated) was noted, including that Beccy would share data received from National Rail and would be organising a further meeting in 3 months time.
- 87/26 **Arun District Association of Local Councils (ADALC)** – Minutes of the meeting held on 12 May, 2026 had been circulated.
- 88/26 **Report on Planning Matters** – It was noted the Clerk had written to other ADALC Council’s for examples of areas of concern regarding the NPPF and whether they would consider contributing towards the cost of the report/letter by the planning consultant.
- 89/26 **South Strand Community Toilets** – Cllr Buckenham advised that all seemed in good order and that the toilets would be closed 3-7 August for repairs/maintenance to be carried out.
- 90/26 **Future of the Defibrillator in Gorse Avenue** – Council noted that Valerie Masson (in a personal capacity) and her husband were the new volunteer co-ordinators and would take over the agreement with the Community Heartbeat Trust and submit monthly readings from the machine. Therefore the defibrillator would remain in its location along Gorse Avenue
- 91/26 **Meeting Rooms** – it was agreed to defer consideration of changing the venue for Council meetings.
- 92/26 **Next scheduled meeting** is on Thursday, 17 September, 2026. Agenda confirming details of the meetings are published 3 days before this on our website <https://kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk/>
- 93/26 **Exclusion of the Public and Press** - Pursuant to Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, it was resolved that Members of the Public and the Press be excluded from the Meeting because of the confidential nature of the next item of business to be transacted.
- 94/26 **Recruitment of new Clerk** – Council noted that the Clerk would be retiring in the New Year and agreed to use the recruitment services offered by WSALC (West Sussex Association of Local Councils). Council agreed to set up a Staffing Committee to progress the recruitment process with 4 Members: Cllrs Wetherell, Andrew, Hall and Randall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10 pm.

Chairman:

Date: